



RURAL DISTRICT OF MERE & TISBURY



***Annual Report***

of

***The Medical Officer of Health***

incorporating

***The Report***

of

***The Chief Public Health Inspector***



FOR THE YEAR 1967



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RURAL DISTRICT OF MERE AND TISBURY  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
INCORPORATING THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1967

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of Mere and Tisbury.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the public health of the district during the year 1967. The report follows the recommendations of the Ministry of Health in Circular No. 1, 1968. Sections 5(3) and 15(5) of the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959, are referred to in this Circular, which sections draw attention to the provision in the Regulations for the Medical Officer of Health to comment on any matter which he thinks desirable in relation to the public health in this area, in addition to any on which he is specifically required to report.

The Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Harry Sharratt, is incorporated. This provided me with detailed information in regard to environmental public health in the district, to supplement that derived from my own personal observation, and enables some further comments to be made.

I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation of the staff of the Public Health Department, particularly Mr. Sharratt, and of my associates in other departments of the Council. I also thank most gratefully my colleagues, the local General Medical Practitioners and Health Visitors, also Dr. Peter Wormald, Director of the Salisbury Public Health Laboratory, for their kind and friendly co-operation, also the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, for his helpful co-operation during the year.

There is an arrangement between the East Wilts Districts and South Wiltshire group of districts, excluding Salisbury City, under which their Medical Officers of Health deputise for each other during holiday periods or other absences from work. I would like to thank my East Wilts colleague Dr. F. D. F. Steede for his help, during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. JOHN G. LISHMAN

Medical Officer of Health.





## INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY

Special attention is drawn to the following sections of the Report.

### 1. In the 'Vital Statistics' Section:-

The 'standardized' general death rate of 10.2 per 1,000 is virtually the same as that for last year, but still fractionally lower than the previous year's rate for England and Wales, and for the County of Wiltshire. Over half of it was due to diseases of the heart or circulation.

The 'nil' maternal mortality rate.

The infant mortality rate of 20 per 1,000 live births is a little lower than last year's rate of 22.0, but is a little higher than the national rate (18.3). The perinatal death rate is very high at 52 per 1,000 births, because there were 5 still births.

The Cancer death rate is about the same at 1.72 but one third of these were due to Lung Cancer. Deaths from heart and circulation diseases is precisely the same as last year (7.0), and is still the most frequent cause of death. Coronary disease (rate of 3.0) was the most frequent single 'circulatory' cause.

### 2. In the 'Communicable Disease' Section:-

The District was again fortunate in having a general low incidence of notifiable communicable diseases, even for Measles, of which there were only 15 cases prevalent.

The respiratory tuberculosis notification rate again remained at nil.

One case of (respiratory) tuberculosis died during the year.

It is hoped to begin immunisation against Measles early in the new year.

### 3. In the 'Environmental Public Health and Food' Section:-

The need for enrichment of the fluoride-weak drinking water available from the Mere and Maiden Bradley sources remains. The West Wilts Water Board are still waiting for a lead from the Wiltshire County Council in this matter, which, un-fortunately, had not been given by the end of the year.

The new sewerage and disposal works for Mere, completed in 1966, are composing themselves and the new works at Maiden Bradley have just been completed.

In Housing, in spite of the substantial amount of work done by the Council in providing Council dwellings in previous years there is still a great need for more housing accommodation for people at present without

their own homes, plus a much smaller number of people who may be now living in worn out or insanitary buildings in the 'condemned' class. The number of families on the waiting list for housing by the Authority increased during the year from 242 to 270. The need to conserve every acre of good agricultural land is increasingly paramount for the health and welfare of this country.

THE MAIN PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS - These remain as previously, namely:-

1. More homes, with the minimum encroachment upon agricultural land.
2. Enrichment of fluoride-weak drinking water supplies, to enable teeth to grow healthy and be durable, and reduce the risk from circulatory troubles and bone fragility in old age. (This must wait for action by the Wiltshire County Council, as "Local Health Authority").
3. Less tobacco smoking. Continued effort to counteract the advertising of cigarettes which is still so largely directed at young people.
4. Progress in sewage disposal schemes, in priority for East Knoyle, Teffont and Chilmark, and Berwick St. John.

# STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health: F. J. G. LISHMAN, M.D. (Hygiene), B.S. (London), D.P.H. (London), L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.L.O. (England), L.M.C. (Canada).

Address: Office - 26, Endless Street, Salisbury. (Tel: Salisbury 5201)  
Residence - "Till Orchard", Berwick St. James. (Tel: Stapleford 269)

Chief Public Health Inspector: H. SHARRATT, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector: R. KNOX, M.A.P.H.I. (Left to take up an appointment at Horncastle R.D.C. - October 1967)

Clerk (Mere Office): MISS D. MILLS

Clerks (Salisbury Office): MISS L. BRYAN  
MISS M. SAFE ) Part time with Surveyor of  
MISS A. SHEPHERD ) Salisbury and Wilton R.D.C.

The Medical Officer of Health also holds appointments as Medical Officer of Health for the Salisbury and Wilton Rural District, and for the Borough of Wilton, and, under the arrangement made in 1954, acts as a Medical Officer for the Wiltshire County Council. (Approximately two elevenths of the Salary for the Joint Appointment is allocated to the Mere and Tisbury Rural District Council).

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Number of Parishes .. .. .	26
Area in Acres .. .. .	71,319
Population, 1961 Census .. .. .	11,195
Population, Registrar General's Estimate for mid year .. .. .	11,480
Density of Population - people per acre .. .. .	0.15
Number of inhabited dwellings (houses or flats) .. .. .	4,142
Number of inhabited dwellings owned by the Council at the end of the year .. .. .	763
Number of new Council dwellings built during the year (4 houses acquired by other means) .. .. .	None
Number of applications for Council housing at the end of the year on waiting list .. .. .	270
Rateable Value .. .. .	£307,793
Product of a penny rate .. .. .	£1,160



# ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR

There was no change during the year in the administration of the Public Health Department.

## VITAL STATISTICS

TABLE 1

### BIRTHS, INFANT MORTALITY AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

						<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	66	70	136
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	8	6	14
	Total	..	..	..	..	74	76	150

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births .. .. 10.7

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. .. 13.1

\*Comparability Factor for Births .. .. 1.19

Standardized Live Birth Rate .. .. 15.6  
(This is 91% of the national rate)

\*COMPARABILITY FACTOR FOR BIRTHS, 1.19, - (This 'standardizes' or compensates for age and sex distribution of the local population so that the standardized birth rate can be compared with the rate for England and Wales, and with similarly standardized birth rates in other areas).

						<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still Births	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	0	1
	Total	..	..	..	..	4	1	5

Total Live Births and Still Births .. .. 78 77 155

Still Births, rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births .. .. 32

						<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infant Deaths	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	3	0	3
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
	Total	..	..	..	..	3	0	3

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births Legitimate .. .. 20  
 Illegitimate .. .. 0  
 Total .. .. 20

For Comparison - I.M.R., England and Wales	..	..	..	..	18.3
I.M.R., Wiltshire (previous year)	..	..	..	..	16.9

Note:

$$\text{I.M.R.} = \frac{\text{deaths under 1 year}}{\text{Live Births}} \times 1,000$$

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Neo Natal (in first four weeks) Deaths	Legitimate	3	0	3
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
	Total	3	0	3

Neo Natal Mortality Rate .. .. . 20

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Early Neo Natal Deaths (in first week)	Legitimate	3	0	3
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
	Total	3	0	3

Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate .. .. . 20

Perinatal Deaths (Still Births + Early Neo Natal Deaths):

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6	1	7
Illegitimate	1	0	1
Total	7	1	8

\*Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live + Still Births) .. 52

Maternal Deaths (including Abortion) .. .. . 0

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births.. .. 0

Comment

The Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population of the Rural District is unchanged, but the birth rate has slightly increased to 15.6 (standardized). The five previous years' 'standardized' birth rates were (1962) 17.4, (1963) 18.2, (1964) 18.8, (1965) 17.4 and (1966) 14.7. The Infant Mortality Rate is down, and is only fractionally more than the national and County Rates. But the relatively small number of births and deaths in a small population makes the calculated rate subject to a big chance factor. Each single death makes a difference of 6 units in the I.M.R. Thus a death on the 31st December, instead of the 1st January, could cause a difference of 12 between the I.M.R. of one year and the next, hence big annual fluctuations can occur, especially when a lot of deaths happen to occur just before or after the end of a particular year.

\* One feature in these statistics is the very high 'perinatal' death rate. This is entirely due to the occurrence of 5 still births during the year, which, added to the death of live-born babies in this first week, make 8, with a P.M.R. of 52.

TABLE II

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Deaths.. .. .	71	77	148
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	..	..	12.9
Comparability Factor for Deaths.. .. .	..	..	0.78

This factor, being substantially less than unity, indicates that the age distribution of the local population is more elderly than that of the Country as a whole. Its application makes the local 'crude' rate comparable with that of the Country, and with similarly adjusted rates from other localities.

Death Rate as standardized by Comparability Factor .. .. .	..	..	10.2
(This is 90% of the National Rate)			
Death Rate for Wiltshire (previous year) - standardized .. .. .	..	..	10.5
Death Rate for England and Wales for comparison .. .. .	..	..	11.2

Comment

The standardized death rate is identical with that of last year, and again is very slightly less than that of Wiltshire, and less than England and Wales.

NATURAL INCREASE

After last year's surprising 'minus 10' figure, there is a return to a 'positive' statistic, though it amounts to only 2 points.

Increase of Live Births over deaths for the year .. .. .	..	..	2
Rate of Natural Increase, per 1,000 of population .. .. .	..	..	0.15

TABLE III

Certain 'Specific' Death Rates in Inverse 'Health Index' Value  
(Rates per 1,000 population, except for maternal rate)

1. Deaths due to Tuberculosis (all forms) - both sexes .. .. .	..	..	1
Tuberculosis Death Rate .. .. .	..	..	0.1
Deaths due to Respiratory Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.. .. .	..	..	0.1



Previous years Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate, Wiltshire, for comparison .. .. .	0.06
Previous year's Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate, England and Wales, for comparison .. .. .	0.048
2. Deaths from Cancer and related Malignant Diseases .. .. .	34
Specific Death Rate from Cancer (all forms) .. .. .	3.0
Previous year's Death Rate from Cancer (all forms), Wiltshire.. .. .	1.72
Previous year's Death Rate from Cancer (all forms), England and Wales .. .. .	2.23
Deaths from Lung Cancer .. .. .	7
Specific Death Rate from Lung Cancer .. .. .	0.6
Previous year's Death Rate from Lung Cancer, Wiltshire3. .. .. .	0.42
Previous year's Death Rate from Lung Cancer, England and Wales .. .. .	0.56
3. Deaths from Heart Disease and other diseases of the circulatory system .. .. .	81
Specific Death Rate from Heart Disease .. .. .	7.0
Rate for Coronary Disease only.. .. .	3.3
4. Maternal Deaths (due to Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion) .. .. .	0
Maternal Mortality Rate -- per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	0
Previous year's Maternal Mortality Rate (Childbirth, Abortion, Pregnancy), Wiltshire .. .. .	0.11
Previous year's Maternal Mortality Rate (Childbirth, Abortion, Pregnancy), England and Wales..... .. .	0.26
5. Deaths from Accidents and Violence (all forms) .. .. .	6
Deaths from Accidents and Violence (Motor Vehicles) .. .. .	4

#### Comment

Certain of the specific 'index' mortality rates are analysed, or broken down, in the following Table IV. On the whole, these 'inverse indices' of the state of health of the community are satisfactory. Most are on the low side except the rate for Heart Diseases, and for Lung Cancer, which is higher than for Wiltshire, and higher than for England and Wales. There was a '0.1' specific death rate from Tuberculosis and a 'nil' rate from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion (Maternal Mortality). Both these latter statistics are satisfying to record. (See also comment after Table IV).

#### ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSE

The Registrar General provides for each district each year an analysis of death according to cause, broken down into thirty-six disease headings. These headings lend themselves to a considerable extent to 'grouping' the causes of death together in 'families' or types of disease related to each other, study

of the trends in which groups may be of interest or value in regard to the particular population concerned. Advantage has therefore been taken of this opportunity to classify the Registrar General's annual table for this district into seven groups, labelled 'A' to 'G' as set out in Table IV.

TABLE IV  
ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATHS

Group A - Certain Communicable Diseases

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>
1. Tuberculosis - Respiratory.. ..	0	1	1	0.1
2. Tuberculosis - Other .. ..	0	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic Disease .. ..	0	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria .. ..	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough .. ..	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infection .. ..	0	0	0	0
7. Poliomyelitis .. ..	0	0	0	0
8. Measles .. ..	0	0	0	0
9. Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (other than Influenza and Pneumonia) .. ..	0	0	0	0
Total Group A .. ..	0	1	1	0.1

Group B - Cancer and related Malignant Diseases

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>
10. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach ..	0	2	2	0.2
11. Lung or Bronchus ..	6	1	7	0.6
12. Breast ..	1	4	5	
13. Uterus ..	0	3	3	
14. Other Malignant or Lymphatic Neoplasm	11	5	16	
15. Leukaemia or Aleukaemia .. ..	1	0	1	
Total Group B .. ..	19	15	34	3.0

Group C - 16. Diabetes .. ..	3	0	3	0.3
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Group D - Heart and other Diseases of Circulatory System

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>
17. Vascular lesions of Nervous System ( 'Stroke' ) .. ..	3	12	15	1.5
18. Coronary Disease of Angina.. ..	16	19	35	3.3
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease..	0	2	2	



	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>
20. Other Heart Disease .. ..	8	14	22	
21. Other Circulatory Diseases.. ..	2	5	7	
Total Group D .. ..	29	52	81	7.0

Group E - Respiratory Disease - Other than Tuberculosis or Cancer

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>
22. Influenza .. ..	0	0	0	
23. Pneumonia .. ..	4	1	5	0.4
24. Bronchitis .. ..	2	2	4	0.35
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2	
Total Group E .. ..	7	4	11	1.0

Group F - Miscellaneous

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	0	1	1	
27. Gastritis, Enteritis .. ..	1	0	1	
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	1	0	1	
29. Hyperlasia or prostate .. ..	0	0	0	
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion..	0	0	0	
31. Congenital Malformation .. ..	2	0	2	
32. Other Defined and ill defined Diseases	4	3	7	
Total Group F .. ..	8	4	12	1.1

Group G - Accidents and Violence

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	4	0	4	0.35
34. All other Accidents .. ..	1	1	2	
35. Suicide .. ..	0	0	0	
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0	0	
Total Group G .. ..	5	1	6	0.35
37. All causes .. ..	71	77	148	13.0

Deaths from Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, as usual the most common cause of death in this district, have remained the same level as the two previous years, 7.0 per 1,000, and amount to over half of the total number of deaths. They remain the greatest fatal endemic diseases affecting the district. Excepting No. 17, (stroke) which is liable to cause patients' relatives great discomfort, anxiety, and, for the relatives sometimes unbearable strain, this group is probably the most satisfactory one to belong to in the Registrar's case book of deaths. However, in the case of item 18., (coronary disease) this does often involve a sudden and fearful blow to a family, where the breadwinner is taken away during probably the most lucrative and responsible period of life.

There was one death (female) from lung tuberculosis, but I am sorry to report that the lung cancer death rate has risen from 0.35 last year to 0.6 per 1,000. The 'nil' Maternal Death Rate has already been noted. The deaths from accidents and violence has increased.

### Heart Disease

This high mortality from heart disease, is a challenge to the public health departments. It is now believed that this can be reduced, or at least postponed to a later date, by the following measures:

- (i) Certainly by reduction of weight, especially in the already obese.
- (ii) Less certainly, but probably, by reduction of the amount of sugar, and of animal fat in the diet, (butter, cream, meat fat, bacon fat, etc). Fish oil and certain vegetable fats (e.g. linseed oil) are believed to be less harmful, and indeed to some extent displace, or counteract, the effect of meat and milk fat, in the diet. It is thus safer to fry foods in 'corn' (maize) oil or olive oil, than in butter, lard or meat 'dripping'.
- (iii) Regular moderate exercise -- 'Walk instead of drive - where practicable'
- (iv) Giving up the smoking of tobacco, or reducing it to a minimum of pipes or of cigars, but no cigarettes.

To publicise these measures, together with the special dangers of cigarette smoking in regard to two other dangerous diseases, lung cancer and bronchitis, is now a major duty of the public health department.

### TOBACCO SMOKING:- Lung Cancer and other Effects

Evidence continues to accumulate about the harmful effects of smoking tobacco, especially in the form of cigarettes. But in addition to causing cancer of the breathing organs, the effect on these organs of chronic inflammation - Bronchitis - is becoming more and more evident. Effects in the heart and larger blood vessels are also well known. It is almost incomprehensible how adult people can revert to the habits of infancy and require for their solace the feel of a cigarette in their mouths, like a baby's comforter, and deplorable to see, in the face of the overwhelming evidence linking cigarette smokers with dangerous and socially destructive diseases.



## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The measure of the extent to which people are immunised against communicable diseases in a district has become one of the 'indices' of the health of the community. 'Artificial' immunisation against certain diseases amenable to prevention, or attenuation, but this method is now available for a number of communicable diseases, which number increases every few years. As long as this method of protection against specific communicable diseases is not allowed to obscure the wider, general measures for the promotion of health - good nutrition, housing, education, interesting occupation and creative use of leisure time - its gradual development and multiplication is all to the good. The longest established and so far most proven successful and lasting artificial immunisations, are those against smallpox and diphtheria. In more recent years protection against whooping cough (partial), tetanus, and against poliomyelitis, have been accepted as normal practice. For Wiltshire, the Wiltshire County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service, operates in this District a scheme for protection against these five diseases. Smallpox immunisations are done by the 'Family Doctors' under the National Health Service for the County Council. These are now done at a later age, 5-18 months old, instead of during the first six months of infancy. The other immunisations are performed either by the 'Family Doctors' or by the County Council's Medical Officers at Child Health Clinics or specially held immunisation clinics, usually arranged at Central Clinics or at village halls. In this area, all the immunisations, (except for oral poliomyelitis) are still carried out by doctors, the practice of employing public health nurses (health visitors or especially experienced nurses) in this work not yet having been adopted for injections.

For the first time, Anthrax immunisations became available for certain people at special risk. In the R.D.C. this applies only to the Mere Brush Factory, and the County Council have arranged for me to begin the immunisation of a small number of brush factory workers who handle imported material that could possibly harbour anthrax germs. This material, however, goes through a cleansing process before arriving at Mere. It is expected that the County Council will be starting Measles immunisation during 1968.

Again, this year, I am omitting the tables of immunisation statistics which the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, has regularly provided, broken down for each District separately. These tables are not received until after the drafting of this Annual Report, which is now rendered possible earlier in the year, because the Registrar General sends me the annual statistical returns for the District in the late spring, instead of early summer, a welcome innovation due to the introduction of computers. This enables me to start drafting the Annual Reports for my three districts two months earlier than in years prior to 1965. The immunisation figures will, of course, later be available in Dr. Lycett's own Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health, which usually, being more complex, appears a little later in the year.

## Incidence of Communicable Diseases

The communicable diseases for which statistics are available comprise only those diseases which are compulsorily 'notifiable', under the Public Health Act, 1936, or the various Regulations which are operative. A proportion of these notifiable diseases does not get notified because although legally the head of the family is responsible for notifying the Medical Officer of Health, in practice notification is rarely made unless a doctor attends, and he makes the notification.

Certain common communicable diseases, such as influenza, rubella and mumps, and also brucellosis, venereal diseases, because they are not generally 'Notifiable', cannot be included in this table, in which are recorded only those cases of diseases which are notifiable and are actually notified. Also, not all cases of notifiable diseases can be included, for some minor cases may never have a doctor called to them and therefore do not get notified to the Medical Officer of Health. It is likely that a number of mild cases of whooping cough, for example, may occur but not be notified.

The notifiable communicable diseases actually notified during the year are set out in Table VI.

The year was again remarkable for an extremely low incidence of all kinds of notifiable disease, even measles, (only 15 cases notified). No cases of 'food poisoning' were notified, but one case was otherwise discovered - of Salmonella Typhi-Murium infection.

This year there were no new notified cases of Tuberculosis. At the time of writing this report there was a total of 31 cases of Tuberculosis in my register for the Rural District. 25 of these were respiratory and 6 non-respiratory. This is a substantial reduction since a year previously, when, at the same time, there were 42 cases on the register.

As a cause of endemic disease, heart, cancerous and respiratory diseases have replaced the old idea of 'infectious disease' as prime epidemiological culprits. Public Health workers have now to tackle this trio of killers with the same energy as they used to tackle the now weakening group of 'communicable' diseases.

The effort to persuade people to reduce tobacco smoking as a step in the prevention of bronchitis and lung cancer, is one example of modern epidemiology in the public health service, as are the avoidance of obesity, (especially if caused by excessive eating of sugar and animal fat), plus the taking of regular moderate exercise still, after middle age, as measures to reduce heart and circulatory diseases. However, the development of new types of 'infectious diseases' especially the very numerous different 'virus' diseases, which are not yet notifiable, is beginning to present a new problem, as are strains of bacteria causing the older diseases which have become resistant to overworked forms of drug treatment. In this connection the massive feeding of antibiotics to farm animals subsequently to be used for human food is possibly dangerous, by tending to produce directly or indirectly, resistant strains of bacteria and also, perhaps, human allergies.



TABLE VI

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

					Sub div'ns of Main Diseases	Main Disease	Group Total
1.	<u>Tuberculosis</u>						
(a)	Respiratory .. .. .				0		
(b)	Meninges and Nervous System..				0		
(c)	Other Forms .. .. .				0		
(d)	Group Total .. .. .					0	0
<hr/>							
(Newly notifiable Respiratory Tuberculosis Rate per 1,000 population = Nil).							
2.	<u>Other Respiratory Notifiable Diseases</u>						
(a)	Whooping Cough .. .. .					0	
(b)	Pneumonia Acute .. .. .					0	
(c)	Group Total .. .. .						0
<hr/>							
3.	<u>Diphtheria</u> .. .. .					0	0
<hr/>							
4.	<u>Meningococcal Infection</u> .. ..					0	0
<hr/>							
5.	<u>Virus Diseases of Nervous System</u>						
(a)	Poliomyelitis - Paralytic .. ..				0		
(b)	Poliomyelitis - Non Paralytic ..				0		
(c)	Total .. .. .					0	
(d)	Encephalitis - Infective .. ..				0		
(e)	Encephalitis - Post Infectious ..				0		
(f)	Total .. .. .					0	
(g)	Group Total .. .. .						0
<hr/>							
6.	<u>Other Notifiable Virus Diseases</u>						
(a)	Measles (excluding Rubella) ..				0	15	
(b)	Smallpox .. .. .					0	
(c)	Group Total .. .. .						15
<hr/>							
7.	<u>Alimentary Infection or Poisons</u>						
(a)	Dysentery - Bacterial .. .. .				0		
(b)	Dysentery - Other.. .. .				0		
(c)	Total.. .. .					0	

Sub div'ns of Main Diseases	Main Disease	Group Total
--------------------------------	-----------------	----------------

(d) Typhoid Fever .. .. .	0	
(e) Paratyphoid Fever.. .. .	0	
(f) Food Poisoning .. .. .	0	
(g) Group Total .. .. .		0

#### 8. Streptococcal Group

(a) Scarlet Fever .. .. .	0	
(b) Erysipelas .. .. .	1	
(c) Group Total .. .. .		1

#### 9. Miscellaneous Group

(a) Puerperal Pyrexia.. .. .	0	
(b) Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	0	
(c) Other Notifiable Diseases .. .. .	0	
(d) Group Total .. .. .		0

10. All 'Notifiable Diseases' Total: 16

#### Comment

This year the normally expected biennial wave of measles should not have occurred, but it is only about half last year's wave. Otherwise the statistics for notified communicable diseases are low and very satisfactory. It is especially fortunate that while certain other Rural Districts in Wiltshire suffered from Dysentery, the Mere and Tisbury Rural District was, as far as discovered, quite free from this tedious and insanitary disease.

TABLE VI(a)

#### FOOD POISONING, ETC.

(Salmonella Infections that are not considered to be food borne are not included under items (2), (3) or (4) but are shown separately under item (5).

#### 1. (a) FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (corrected) AS RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL.

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0

(b) CASES OTHERWISE ASCERTAINED

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	TOTAL
0	0	1	0	1

(c) SYMPTOMLESS EXCRETORS

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0

(d) FATAL CASES

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0

2. PARTICULARS OF OUTBREAKS

Agent	No. of outbreaks		No. of Cases		Total Number of Cases
	Family outbreaks	Other outbreaks	Notified	Otherwise ascertained	
Agent identified:					
(a) Chemical Poisons (Type to be stated)	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Salmonella typhimurium	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Staphylococci	0	0	0	0	0
(d) C. botulinum	0	0	0	0	0
(e) C. welchii	0	0	0	0	0
(f) Other Bacteria (to be named)	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	0	0
Agent not identified	0	0	0	0	0

### 3. SINGLE CASES

Agent	No. of Cases		Total No. of Cases
	Notified	Otherwise ascertained	
Agent identified:			
(a) Chemical Poisons (Type to be stated)	0	0	0
(b) Salmonella (Type S. typhimurium)	0	1	1
(c) Staphylococci	0	0	0
(d) Cl. botulinum	0	0	0
(e) Cl. Welchii	0	0	0
(f) Other bacteria (to be named)	0	0	0
Totals	0	1	1
Agent not identified	0	0	0

### 4. SALMONELLA INFECTIONS, NOT FOOD-BORNE

Salmonella type	Outbreaks		No. of Cases (Outbreaks)	Single Cases	Total No. of Cases (outbreaks) and single cases
	Family	Other			
Totals	0	0	0	0	0

### 5. PARTICULARS OF OUTBREAKS

There were none.

#### Comment

This table is a return required by the Ministries of Health, and Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, so is included in this Report in spite of its containing, very happily only one entry. There were only two notified cases of 'Food Poisoning' during 1955, none in 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959, one in 1960, none in 1961 and one in 1962, and none in 1963, 1964 and 1965 and 4 in 1966.



## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Apart from the general medical, dental, specialist and hospital service of the National Health Service, the other personal Health Services for the Rural District are operated by the Wiltshire County Council. Among these are the Health Visiting Service, Midwifery Service, Home Nursing Service, Home Help Service, Ambulance Service, the Child Health Clinics and the School Health Service, with its specialised auxiliary services such as Speech Therapy and Guidance Clinics. The County Council are also responsible for the Mental Health Service (outside hospitals) and the 'Care and After-Care' service, which is largely concerned with tuberculous people, their families and other contacts, and with 'Chronic Sick' and aged people outside hospitals.

### Cancer Prevention

Lungs: The County Council continues its anti smoking health education campaign.

Uterine Cervical Cytology Clinics: This service is now provided in various parts of Wiltshire by the County Council. At the end of the year the nearest of these clinics were at Salisbury and Warminster. Arrangements are also made for Wiltshire women from the Mere area to attend the Dorset County Council Clinic at Gillingham if this is more convenient to them. This is a valuable service and I hope that as many women aged 25-55 as possible will avail themselves of it. Details of tests carried out will probably be found in the imminent Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

### Family Planning

Clinics run by the F.P.A., but supported partly by the Wiltshire County Council, are now operating twice a week at the Central Health Clinic, Salisbury, and another is available at Bath.

### Handicapped Children

The School Health care and special educational needs of handicapped children also comes under the Wiltshire School Health Service.

### School Premises

The hygiene of School premises, as of most other buildings, concerns the Local Public Health Authority as well as the Educational Authority, and school premises are inspected by your Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as such, and also as School Medical Officer. A number of recommendations for improvements in school premises, fittings and sanitary arrangements for improving hygienic conditions were made during the year, special attention being paid to the dish and utensil washing facilities in the service for school meals.

The Rural District Council is fortunate in having two excellent and modern secondary schools within its area, the Dunworth at Tisbury and the Duchy Manor at Mere.

### Pre-School Playgroups

To meet the need for companionship, play-activity and fundamental education, pre-school playgroups are being established in many parts of the country, some by Local Authorities (when they are sometimes called nurseries or nursery schools, if they have 5 or more children over age 5), or by private individuals. There were, at the end of the year, privately run pre-school playgroups operating in the Rural District as follows:-

1. Mere -- The Old Rectory, Mrs. Longbourne.
2. Teffont Magna - Hill Meadow, Mrs. Long-Fox.
3. Tisbury - Congregational Hall, Mrs. B. Oliver.

The County Health Department have just arranged for me to inspect these, and any proposed new playgroups within the Rural District, and before this report was written, I had inspected and approved a fourth new playgroup at Sandroyd, Tollard Royal.

### Handicapped Adults

The Social care of handicapped adults, including the blind and deaf and of old people, comes under the County Council services. But the Local Authority has obligation in regard to their housing, and has certain powers, under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act for enforcing institutional care if necessary. The Local Authority has also delegated some of its power, as permitted by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, to the Medical Officer of Health, to act on his own authority in emergency, to obtain a Justice's order, for a period of up to three weeks detention, in hospital or a Welfare Home.

The Medical Officer of Health saw a few old people, to a greater or less extent needing care and attention. In this particular Rural District, however, removal to an institution was either unnecessary, was arranged for voluntarily, either by the person applying to the County Council Welfare Department, or the family doctor making arrangements for admission to hospital. I am glad to say that compulsory powers did not have to be used this year, nor for several years past, in this District.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD

This is still probably the most important of the various factors which influence public health.

As stated in previous Annual Reports and annually repeated because of its basic importance, human health is still greatly influenced by the environment (including housing) and the extent to which man can adapt to suit his needs.



Health is also largely dependent upon the quantity and quality of food supplies. Fundamental to good health are such influences as housing, a water supply containing the necessary mineral impurities for promoting health but free from harmful bacteria, etc., safe (and preferably not wasteful) disposal of body wastes, refuse collection and disposal, control of flies, mosquitoes and other insects, rodents and other vermin, quality, quantity, and freedom from adulteration or infection of food supplies including especially such universal and basic foods such as bread, milk, meat. Food hygiene concerns not only the home, but also places where food or drink are prepared or consumed, including schools and other eating rooms, public restaurants, hotels and public houses. Avoidance of certain adverse habits such as excessive tobacco smoking or excessive regular alcohol drinking, is also important.

Some of these matters are reported upon in detail in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. Sharratt, which is incorporated in this Annual Report. Comments on the following matters are, however, made in this section of the Report.

#### 1. Housing

This is probably the most important, among man-controlled ones, of the various factors influencing health mentioned above. Bad housing, (or worse, no housing accommodation), overcrowding, living with 'in-laws', adjacent to noisy neighbours, are monotonously found to be at the back of people's worries, domestic or occupational, much of which could be alleviated with corresponding improvement to mind and body if more people's housing problems could be solved. The full extent of the housing problem cannot be measured only by the size of the Local Authority's waiting list of applicants for Council Houses or apartments ('flats'), though these waiting lists are larger. Some people are probably living in unsuitable accommodation who have not applied for Council Housing. At the end of the year there were 270 actual applications for Council Housing on the waiting list, an increase of 28 compared with the end of the previous year.

#### Housing Statistics

A copy of the annual return which I am required to make to the County Medical Officer of Health of Wiltshire will be found on pages 2 to 4 of the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The number of dwellings in this Rural District could not be precisely ascertained for 1967. But accommodation owned by the Council consisted of 53 flats, 128 bungalows, 582 other dwellings, total 763. Neither of the projected 'grouped dwellings' for old or handicapped people at Mere and Tisbury had started construction by the end of the year. They are badly needed.

#### Improvement Grants

'Discretionary' Grants were continued during the year. The smaller 'Standard' Grants were of course continued also. Discretionary Improvement Grants in respect of 16 dwellings were approved during the year. A further

17 'Standard' Grants were made, under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. These Standard Grants are largely concerned with provision of baths, water closets and kitchen facilities, and are mandatory on the Council, if the conditions are suitable, so a substantial increase is to be expected, as more public sewage schemes are developed. The amount of work falling on the staff of the Public Inspectors in connection with these Improvement Grants is heavy, but their value is great.

### Food Storage and Refrigerators

Modern eating and purchasing habits have become conditioned to ability to store food really cold. This is especially true in the country, where the housewife may buy a whole week's provisions at only one days shopping visit to the nearest place with shops.

Tenants of Council Houses of this Authority are very fortunate in being able to rent a refrigerator from the Council at a very moderate weekly rate. This facility is well used and appreciated. However, for part of the year, no new renting arrangements could be made because the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had put a stop, as an 'economy cut' to the Council buying any further refrigerators to let. At the end of the year 206 refrigerators were out on loan from the Council.

### Retired People

The venture begun some years ago by the Mutual Households Association with Grant and Loan from the Council under which the country mansion of Pyt House has been adapted for the housing, in about 30 different apartments, of 'Retired' people, still continues joyfully. There is a good community spirit and under one paid Garden Supervisor most of the care of the exterior grounds is undertaken by the residents themselves.

### Special Housing Needs of Old People

I have referred previously the need for, and the Council's intentions to provide, two grouped dwellings, at Mere and at Tisbury. In addition the Council's Surveyor's Department is willing to carry out minor adaptations and amenities in Council Homes for old or handicapped people.

### Slum Clearance

This continues, but the worst cases have been dealt with and only 5 dwellings were demolished, and one closed, during the year as the result of statutory action.

## 2. WATER SUPPLIES

In 1960, the Council's Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme became incorporated in the Regional Water Supply Undertaking of the West Wilts Water Board, the headquarters of which are at Warminster. I have been impressed by the



importance attached by the Board's staff to frequent bacteriological analysis of water supplies in this Rural District and the great infrequency of anything other than a fully satisfactory bacteriological result. However, chemical analyses have been only occasional and I would welcome seeing more frequent reports on residual chlorine levels at distant peripheral points in the distribution system.

Some further checks by chemical and bacteriological sampling and analysis of the West Wilts Water Boards Waters, are still carried out by the staff of the Council, as Public Health Authority. Details of these, together with analyses of waters in the remaining private supplies, are set out in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Out of the inhabited houses, 4,142 out of 4,147 had, at the end of the year, a piped public supply to the house itself, another 5 having a supply to a nearby 'standpipe' only. The complete picture, parish by parish, is set out in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. The position is steadily improving, as the Council's old Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme to cover the district is being developed by the West Wilts Water Board. 9,215 people, nearly four fifths of the population, receive their water from public piped supplies, others from private piped supplies.

### Fluoride

In the annual circular received from the Ministry of Health referring to preparation of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health, information is especially requested about fluoride content of drinking water supplies. This information has been, in fact, included in my annual report for many years.

Chemical analyses of the water from the Burton Field, Mere source, while otherwise good, has shown that the Fluoride Content of the water is too low - varying from 0.08 to 0.15 parts per million, averaging 0.1 part per million, which is only one-tenth of the desirable 1 part per million, needed for promoting the growth of strong, decay-resisting teeth in the formative phases. The fluoride content of the Maiden Bradley source is much the same as that of the Burton Field source. Details are as follows:

Analyses taken in May, 1968 - Mere, Burton Field Source..	..	..	0.09
Maiden Bradley, Dunkerton Springs	..	0.08	
Donhead Source ..	.. ..	0.12	
Sedgehill ..	.. ..	0.1	
Stourton ..	.. ..	0.15	
(National Trust)			
Fonthill Estate Supply ..	.. ..	0.1	

Details of other chemical analyses of various waters are given in the tables set out in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Fortification of the sources with extra fluoride salts to bring it up to the desirable quality, for dental purposes, could be a simple matter, at a cost of about 1s. to 1s. 6d. per head per annum, and the Ministry of Health is actively encouraging Water Authorities to supplement natural fluoride content of

drinking waters, when insufficient. In 1964 this Council did approve the principle of fluoridation. Unfortunately the Water Board must wait for authority to start fluoridating the supplies from the Local Health Authority (or Authorities) concerned with its distribution area. So far neither the Wiltshire, the Dorset, nor the Somerset County Councils, as 'L.H.A's.' have given this approval, lagging behind the Midlands and Northern Local Health Authorities in this country. Thus a wise 'Local Sanitary Authority' or water undertaking may be prevented from carrying out its wishes by the hesitations of a County Council as 'Local Health Authority'. The cost of fluoridation is only a fraction of that annually needed for dental treatment and within a few years the cost of all capital expenditure would have been recovered, by saving in the cost of dental treatment under the National Health and School Health Services, once the existing backlog of treatment has been overtaken.

I believe that there is no public health measure which would do more to improve dental, and therefore general, health so quickly and so cheaply, as enriching fluoride-weak drinking waters. The benefits which will effect babies and young children will persist through life, and there is now also some evidence that old people who have been used to drinking water with a good fluoride content will not suffer so much from bones weakened by osteoporosis and liable to fracture, and that their great arteries and coronary vessels may be rendered less liable to the condition of "atherosclerosis", which is responsible for their deterioration after middle age.

### 3. DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

Among the five public sewerage systems maintained by the Council, those at Hindon, Tisbury and Zeals were working well, and the Mere works, completed in 1966, were composing themselves. New works at Maiden Bradley were nearly completed. The Council have prepared a priority list for providing sewage disposal works and sewers for these parishes in the Rural District. The top priorities are East Knoyle, Chilmark with Teffont, and Berwick St. John, and a scheme has already been prepared for East Knoyle, by the Council's Consulting Engineers, Ward Whitfield & Son of Trowbridge.

#### Drainage into Streams

The complaints of occasional pollution by house drainage (mainly sullage water) of small streams, have again been less evident this year. The little streams in the villages of Chilmark, Teffont and Berwick St. John are those mainly concerned with this occasionally recurrent nuisance.

#### Septic Tank Cleansing and Cesspit Emptying

Since 1965 the Council have provided a regular evacuating service for places within the Rural District not served by a sewer. The scheme has proved most beneficial. Details will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. The evacuating vehicle is regularly hired for use by the neighbouring Warminster and Westbury Rural District Council.



#### 4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Arrangements for collection and disposal places are described in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the report.

A substantial income from salvage refuse is obtained. Details of income from this source are also given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

#### 5. ROADSIDE FILTH

As long ago as in my report for the year 1964, I stated that I hoped that some action would soon be taken by the County Council about fouling of the countryside close to main roads. Particularly serious is the pollution near the lay-bys in the A.303 road east of Chicklade on Wylve Down. Flies can carry infection from the deposits of faeces onto blackberries. Little progress was made during 1965 but during 1966 a scheme for the establishment of a large Public Convenience at the Furze Hedge Cross Roads on the A.303 west of Chicklade was under consideration. However, a change of policy resulted in planning permission for this installation being refused, and instead the County Council, as Highways Authority, notified that they would provide a mobile van type Male and Female convenience, for use on A.303 lay-bys, the cost of maintenance being shared by the Rural District Council and County Council. This was done, and was well used, but was in fact left all the season in one lay-by, just west of Willoughby Hedge. It is probably too far west to affect the major haunt of the polluters, which is on the ridge between Chicklade and Wylve. Further details, and maintenance figures, are given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

#### 6. FOOD HYGIENE

##### Watercress

During the year increased efforts were made to lessen the likelihood of contamination of this excellent food in the growing beds with further protection by providing hypochlorinating washes for the cress before dispatch to market. However, only 5 out of the 7 samples of cress, even though thoroughly washed in hypochlorited water, were quite satisfactory, while samples of the water feeding the beds were sometimes dubious or poor on analysis.

##### Milk

The work of inspecting retail premises and sampling and analysing the milk is still done by the Rural District Council for the Wiltshire County Council on an agency basis, charging the Wiltshire County Council 15s. 6d. a sample. Milk supplies have been generally quite satisfactory during the year. Sampling of milks for analyses by four methods was continued until October.

The methods are:-

- (1) 'Methylene Blue Test', for general cleanness and keeping quality, for which there were no 'failures' among samples analysed.
- (2) 'Phosphatase Test', for adequacy of heat treatment of 'pasteurised' milk, for which there were no failures among samples analysed.
- (3) 'Turbidity Test', for 'sterilised' milk.
- (4) 'Biological Test', which consists of inoculation of a guinea pig, and its subsequent examination after a five or six weeks interval for signs of either tuberculosis or brucellosis. Out of a total of 13 samples taken for biological tests, all were negative for tuberculosis, and all negative for brucellosis.
- (5) The biological test is being increasingly supplemented or superceded by a two week culture test in the laboratory.

All the analyses on these milks were carried out at the Public Health Laboratory attached to Odstock Hospital, near Salisbury.

#### Ice Cream etc.

Comments concerning this and other foods, and maintenance of the 'clean food campaign', will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

### 7. CLEAN AIR

The Clean Air Act contains valuable provisions to enable local (Air) Authorities to improve the quality of the air within their districts. Fortunately the Mere and Tisbury Rural District has virtually no problem concerning its air, but the provisions of the Act, and any byelaws made by the Council under the Act, will enable the Council to prevent future pollution. Periodical observations of the type and amount of smoke from the few factory chimneys are made, and no action has been necessary.

The complaints of odours from the dog food factory at Tisbury which used to be frequent and bitter have been reduced, with good co-operation from the factory owner who in 1966 installed entirely new cooking equipment with deodorisation of the tripy gasses (which compose the worst of the odours) in a chlorinating spray cylinder. The nasty smelling ingredients such as tripe are stored in an enormous refrigerated chamber where they freeze rock hard and are rendered virtually odourless, until ready for processing into the dog food. However, I have still occasionally smelled a tripy odour when travelling along the Avenue, and the inhabitants of the dwellings at the eastern end of that road may still have occasional cause for complaint.



## 8. MEAT INSPECTION

The work done during the year is set out in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## 9. CARAVANS - CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

A note on this Act is included in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## 10. GYPSIES

Reference should be made to the sections dealing with these in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. During the year the problems of gypsies who have no proper camping ground within the district inevitably increased as they are displaced by other Local Authorities to the South. One gypsy family was rehoused by the Council in a good house, but no progress has been made in the way of providing one or more sites, with facilities for a water supply and excrement disposal, and within reasonable access to schools for the children.

Under powers described in various Ministry of Housing and Local Government or Health Circulars, such as Ministry of Housing and Local Government No. 26/66, either County Councils or District Councils have power to provide such permanent sites. Because of the shifting situation, temporarily and geographically, of gypsies between adjacent County districts, the County Councils would generally be the more appropriate Authorities to provide this much needed service, though some Rural District Councils, such as Eton R.D.C. and Godstone R.D.C., have provided sites. That in the Godstone R.D.C. in addition to the basic necessities mentioned above, has provided an electric washing machine operatable by inserting 2s. 6d., and hot water male and female shower baths working for six minutes for 6d. So far the Wiltshire County Council has not made any such provision, but there are grounds for hope that developments may occur in 1968, beginning with the Salisbury area.

## 11. SWIMMING FACILITIES

Although there are lakes within the District, the rivers are too small or unsafe to provide very satisfactory swimming, especially for learning to swim. A covered public swimming pool is available outside the district, at Frome, and an open one at Gillingham School. There are others at Salisbury and Shaftesbury. There are small pools at Dunworth Secondary Modern School, Tisbury, Duchy Manor Secondary Modern School, Mere and the Primary Schools at East Knoyle (portable type) and Ludwell, and at two private Schools for girls, St. Mary's Convent, Donhead St. Mary and Cranborne Chase School, Wardour. Another pool is contemplated at Semley School. There are no other good places for teaching swimming within the Rural District. At each of the swimming pools the water is checked daily for chlorine content by school staff, and the effectiveness of the 'Break Point' chlorination is also checked about once a week by one of the Public Health Inspectors.

## Artificial Respiration and Resuscitation of the Drowned

The mouth to nose method is now taught to school children by selected teachers, who themselves received instruction from the County Council medical staff, including myself.

### 12. ROAD SAFETY

I am glad to report that the Council, at the end of the year, decided to start a Road Safety Committee, whose main task will be the teaching of children to ride bicycles, and later motor cycles, in a thoughtful and safe manner.

### 13. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Apart from the swimming facilities mentioned in paragraph 11 above, the countryside of the Rural District provides wonderful facilities for recreation. So does the superb National Trust asset of Stourhead Park. For games, apart from school premises, Mere and Tisbury villages both have quite good recreation grounds, on the borders of the villages.

### 14. SUMMER CAMP

Each year 'Camp Mohawk' reopens for the summer and autumn months in Fonthill Abbey Park, receiving batches of hundreds of U.S.A. forces adolescents, who stay from 1 to 2 weeks for the typical American 'summer camp' holiday. This is a well organised and admirable venture, with splendid sanitary and food hygiene facilities.

### 15. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Rural District possesses one of the most attractive and hygienic of any public conveniences. This is at Mere, in the public car park. It is built of beautiful reconstructed Portland stone with male and female ends. Each end has an automatic press button hand washing machine supplying hot water, liquid soap, and drying of hands by hot air blower.

The public conveniences in Tisbury, particularly the male ones, are in a sorry contrast to those in Mere, but the Public Health Committee are aware of the need for improvement in Tisbury, and provision of new ones was, by the end of the year still under consideration.

Reference has already been made to Roadside Public Conveniences.

### 16. FARM EFFLUENT

There has been no further complaint during the year about the considerable nuisance which occurred on several occasions in previous years due to the spraying into the air of effluent from the manure tanks of intensive 'Factory Farms'. This spray forms aerosols which can be wafted great distances, on the breeze, and the aerosols have dreadful odours. They may, quite probably,



be a danger to health also, if they are inhaled or settle on food or baby's prams. This is a national problem which is being studied by the Public Health Committee of the Rural District Councils Association and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

17. MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

Since 1963 the Council have been contributing financially towards a Meals on Wheels Service, run in this area by the Women's Voluntary Services, to which the Wiltshire County Council also contribute materially. The service is at present confined to the Mere Parish, Tisbury, Zeals and Kilminster. There is a need for expansion of the service to other parts of the Rural District, such as the Donheads. At the end of the year 19 people were being served twice a week, 8 at Mere, 5 at Kilminster, 6 at Tisbury but none at Zeals.

18. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

In this Rural District inspections are carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, not by veterinary surgeons. Only one establishment is licensed.

19. OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Details are reported in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section. With the regrettable closure, for passengers, of Semley railway station, access to and from this unfortunate village for shopping becomes increasingly difficult, and Tisbury is now the only railway station open to passengers, in the Rural District.

20. TABLE VII - FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Particulars prescribed by the Ministry of Labour of the Acts in so far as the Local Authority is concerned.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number in Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	NIL	NIL

Premises (1)	Number in Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	10	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	12	NIL	NIL
TOTAL:	48	25	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

No defects were found during the year.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work  (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in un- wholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Wearing } Making Apparel } etc., } Cleaning } and } Washing.	18	0	0	0	0	0
Household Linen	0	0	0	0	0	0

No outworkers were known to be practising any of the following types of work:-

Lace, Lace curtains and nets, Curtains and furniture hangings, Furniture and upholstery, Electro plating, File making, Brass and brass articles, Fur pulling, Iron and Steel cables and chains, Iron and steel anchors and grapnels, Cart gear, Locks, latches and keys, Umbrellas, etc., Artificial flowers, Nets, other than wire nets, Tents, Sacks, Racquet and tennis balls, paper bags, the making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper, Brush making, pea picking, feather sorting, carding, etc. of buttons, etc., stuffed toys, basket making chocolates and sweetmeats, cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc., Textile weaving, Lampshades.

Note:- This table is included in the report on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, for the benefit of the Ministry of Labour. Prior to 1961 it was sent as a separate report to the Ministry of Labour.

F. J. G. LISHMAN

Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Showing Sanitary Circumstances of the Area for  
the Year Ended 31st December, 1967.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1967.

H. SHARRATT

Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INFORMATION

Situated in the South West corner of Wiltshire bordering Somerset and Dorset, the Mere and Tisbury Rural District consists of twenty-six parishes. The two larger Parishes of Mere and Tisbury are semi-urban in character providing facilities for the day to day needs of the surrounding parishes. The A.303 road bearing heavy traffic to the West runs for fifteen miles through the district in the North and the A.30 for eight miles in the South. The London/Exeter line of the Southern Region British Railways bisects the district from East to West and there is now only one station with limited services in operation i.e. Tisbury.

Industry is predominantly agricultural but additional industry is now established in Mere and Tisbury. Brush making has been carried out for many years in Mere and during the past year a factory for the manufacture of Steel Chimneys has commenced operation. In Tisbury, Dog Food, Agricultural Implements and Furniture and Fittings are now manufactured.

Two large private schools for Girls are situated in the district; Cranborne Chase School at Wardour and St. Mary's Convent at Donhead St. Mary. There are two privately run Homes for the Elderly and Pyt House is now run by the Mutual Households Association.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

### Public Health Act, 1936 and General Sanitation

Number of Inspections	re: Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
"	re: Watercress..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
"	re: Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
"	re: Milk Samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	178
"	re: Food Inspection..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
"	re: Infectious Diseases/Suspected Dysentery							
	and to obtain samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
"	to take sewage samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
"	re: Drainage and/or Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
"	re: Farm Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
"	re: Pollution of Water Courses/Rivers							
	Prevention of Pollution Act, 1961	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
"	re: Miscellaneous Complaints	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
"	re: Infestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
"	re: Filthy and Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
"	re: Aged and infirm persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
"	re: Gypsies	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
"	re: Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
"	re: Noise..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
"	re: Litter	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
"	re: Outworkers..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
"	re: Dangerous Structures..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

## HOUSING

Council dwellings completed in 1967:-

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>	<u>Bungalows</u>
	Nil	Nil	Nil

Council Houses: Changes of Tenancy during 1967 .. .. 48

REFRIGERATORS: Tenants of Council Houses may rent refrigerators and 205 tenants are taking advantage of this scheme.

# HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1967

1.	Number of permanent dwellings in district at end of year	4,142
2.	Number of permanent dwellings in district owned by local authority	767
3.	Number of temporary dwellings in district owned by local authority	Nil
4.	Number of applications for Council dwellings at end of year	270
5.	<u>Inspection of dwellings during year:</u>	
	(i) Number of dwellings inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	164
	(ii) Number of dwellings found to be unfit	69
6.	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	56
7.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers</u>	
	<u>A.Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>	
	(i) Number of dwellings where formal notices were served	Nil
	(ii) Number of dwellings made fit as a result of formal notices	Nil
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
	<u>B.Proceedings under Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957</u>	
	(i) Number of dwellings where notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
	(ii) Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
	<u>C.Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17 Housing Act, 1957</u>	
	(i) Number of demolition Orders made	1
	(ii) Number of dwellings demolished as result of Demolition Orders	5
	(iii) Number of undertakings accepted to make fit or not to re-let	2
	(iv) Number of dwellings made fit as result of undertakings	Nil
	<u>D.Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 18, 26 and 35 Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961</u>	
	(i) Number of dwellings where closing Orders were made	1
	(ii) Number of dwellings closed as result of closing Orders or undertakings by owners	1
	<u>E.Proceedings under Sections 17, 42, 43, 46 and 48 Housing Act, 1957</u>	
	(i) Number of dwellings in clearance areas upon which demolition Orders were made	Nil
	(ii) Number of dwellings demolished as result of demolition Orders	Nil
	(iii) Number of dwellings in clearance areas which have been retained as temporary accommodation	Nil
	<u>F.Proceedings under Section 76 Housing Act, 1957</u>	
	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding at end of year	3
	(ii) Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during year	1
	(iii) Number of cases of overcrowding abated during year	1



Houses erected or converted during year:

1.1.67 to 31.12.67	Houses erected during year		Gained from conversion of large houses into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses into one
	For slum clearance	For other purposes		
Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise		54	1	5
Housing Associations etc.		Nil	Nil	Nil

STANDARD GRANTS AND DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Applications		Rejected	Under Consideration	Withdrawn
Received (1)	Approved (2)			
17	16	1	Nil	Nil

Number of houses improved during 1967 as a result of Grants: 16  
Value of Grants made during 1967: £6,154

STANDARD GRANTS

Applications		Grants Completed 1967							Value of Grant
Received	Approved	Bath	Wash-Basin	Hot Water Supply	Water Closet	Larder	Septic Tank	Bath Ext.	
17	17	21	16	18	16	18	7	5	£3,328

Grants cancelled: 1.

RENT ACT 1957

Applications for Certificate of Disrepair	NIL
Certificates issued	NIL
Undertakings to effect repairs accepted	NIL
Applications for cancellation of Certificate	NIL
Certificates cancelled	NIL
Inspections	NIL

## CARAVANS

There has been no demand for a site to be provided and operated by the Council. As previously reported, with increasing traffic along the A.303, particularly with the larger number of holiday travellers using this route to the West, some provision of a Service Area will be necessary.

### Sites Licensed

1. More than one Caravan on Site.

A.30, Donhead St. Mary - 6 Caravans (Residential) and holiday.

2. Caravan Club Licence.

Willoughby Hedge Filling Station - Not exceeding 5 Caravans.

3. Single Caravan on Site - 18.

GYPSIES: There is one encampment within the District at The Dene, Hindon. The area is one of approximately 10 acres and is divided into seven sites owned by the occupants. The number of families accommodated has now been reduced to seven. Two families have been rehoused in Council Houses.

The children attend Hindon School.

Itinerant families again endeavoured to settle on Semley Common but for the greater part of the year only four families stayed in this area.

A meeting was held with the Countryside Committee of the Wiltshire County Council to discuss ways of improving the conditions under which these families exist.

At the time of writing this report a new influx of ten families to Semley Common has occurred following pressure brought to bear in other districts.

There can be no doubt that the Caravan Act at present before Parliament, which is intended to place a duty on County Council's to provide a sufficient number of sites for itinerants in County Areas, will be welcomed. District Councils will have a duty to provide services and facilities and to manage the sites

At the same time the Gypsies and other travellers must also play their part if they are to be accepted into local communities. The all too frequent image shown to the rest of the community is one of squalor and great animosity is aroused by the desecration and fouling of the countryside.

CAMPING Camp Mohawk at Fonthill Abbey Woods was again open during the  
SITE: summer months. This is a well organised site with ample water supply,  
 sanitary accommodation and showers.

## NUISANCES

### Public Health Acts

Complaints investigated .. .. .	41
Informal notices served .. .. .	19
Informal notices complied with.. .. .	19

## RODENT CONTROL

Complaints of Rodent infestation are investigated and necessary treatments carried out. Business premises are charged for this work but usually private contractors provide a service for agricultural premises. Refuse Tips are regularly treated.

Sewers at Mere, Zeals, Tisbury, Hindon and Maiden Bradley were baited. Little evidence of infestation was found.

	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
No. of properties inspected following notification	109	8
No. infested by rats	85	4
mice	5	-
No. of properties surveyed	143	15
No. infested by rats	-	1
Notices served under Section 4	Nil	Nil

## WATER SUPPLY

The West Wilts Water Board supply water throughout the Council's district.

The source of water is at Burton Fields, Mere and is pumped to a Reservoir on Mere Down. This linked to Reservoirs at Hatch, Hindon, East Knoyle, Sutton Mandeville, Donhead St. Andrew and Teffont.

Number of houses supplied from Public Sources in villages:

	DIRECT	BY STANDPIPE
	No. of Houses	No. of Houses
	Population (approx.)	Population (approx.)
Alvediston	9	29
Ansty	44	126
Berwick St. John	94	283



	DIRECT		BY STANDPIPE	
	No. of Houses	Population (approx.)	No. of Houses	Population (approx.)
Chilmark	109	305		
Donhead St. Andrew	119	405		
Donhead St. Mary	297	904		
East Knoyle	182	615		
Fonthill Gifford	6	20		
Fonthill Bishop	8	24		
Hindon	216	506	7	20
Kilmington	55	290		
Maiden Bradley	129	294		
Mere	750	2,096		
Sedgehill	25	123		
Semley	101	289		
Stourton	14	49		
Sutton Mandeville	31	86		
Swallowcliffe	47	150		
Teffont	84	239		
Tisbury	530	1,632		
Tollard Royal	30	79		
West Knoyle	26	89		
West Tisbury	89	312		
Zeals	173	448		

The following data dealing with Bacteriological Analysis is submitted in accordance with Circular 13/47 Ministry of Health.

#### ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES (Bacteriological)

##### (a) Public Supplies

Frequent water samples are taken by the West Wilts Water Board in all parts of the area. Copies of the analyses are sent to the Medical Officer of Health and 107 samples were taken in 1967 from mains, reservoirs and sources.

The following samples were taken by this department:-

Number of samples taken during the year	..	..	..	..	1
Number found to be satisfactory	..	..	..	..	1
Number found to be unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	Nil

##### (b) Private Sources

Number of samples taken during the year	..	..	..	..	28
Number found to be satisfactory	..	..	..	..	23
Number found to be unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	5

The unsatisfactory sources were at Norton Ferris and at Butlers Lane, Semley. In the first instance the source of supply to the Wiltshire County Council Small Holdings has been discontinued and a supply from the West Wilts Water Board main provided. With regard to the supply from the catchpit at Butlers Lane, the West Wilts Water Board have indicated that a main will be laid from the new reservoir at Shaftesbury.

## ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES (Chemical)

Chemical Analysis of a sample taken from the Burton Field source at Mere on 16th August, 1967.

Physical Characteristics - Clear and bright.

Turbidity	Nil
Colour	3
Odour	Nil
Reaction pH.	7.4

	Parts per million
Free Carbon Dioxide	18
Electric Conductivity	410
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	305
Chlorine present as Chloride	12
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	210
Hardness: Carbonate 210	
Non-Carbonate <u>35</u>	245
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.1
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00
Oxygen Absorbed	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00
Residual Chlorine	Absent
Metals: Iron, Zinc and Lead	Absent
Copper	0.26
Fluoride	Less than 0.1
Silica	24

### Mineral Analysis (Parts per million)

Cations		Anions		Hypothetical Combinations	
p.p.m.		p.p.m.		p.p.m.	
Ca	94	CO <sub>3</sub>	126	Calcium carbonate	210
Mg	3	SO <sub>4</sub>	24	Calcium sulphate	34
Na	6	Cl	12	Magnesium chloride	10
K	1	NO <sub>3</sub>	9	Sodium chloride	6
				Sodium nitrate	13
				Silica	24
				Total	297

This sample is clear and bright in appearance.

The water is just on the alkaline side of neutrality, hard in character but not unduly so, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is free from metals apart from a minute trace of copper doubtless deriving from copper fittings.

Organic quality is very satisfactory.

From the aspect of the chemical and mineral analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Chemical Analysis of a sample taken from the Dunkerton Springs source at Maiden Bradley on 16th August, 1967.

Appearance - Bright with a few particles.

Turbidity	Less than	3
Colour		Nil
Odour		Nil
Reaction pH.		7.3

Parts per million

Free Carbon Dioxide		18
Electric Conductivity		370
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C		285
Chlorine present as Chloride		11
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate		170
Hardness: Carbonate	170	
Non-Carbonate	<u>35</u>	205
Nitrate Nitrogen		3.6
Nitrite Nitrogen		Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen		0.00
Oxygen Absorbed		0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen		0.00
Residual Chlorine		Absent
Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper and Lead		Absent
Fluoride	Less than	0.1
Silica		32

#### Mineral Analysis (Parts per million)

Cations		Anions		Hypothetical Combinations	
p.p.m.		p.p.m.		p.p.m.	
Ca	80	CO <sub>3</sub>	102	Calcium carbonate	170
Mg	2	SO <sub>4</sub>	28	Calcium sulphate	41
Na	9	Cl	11	Magnesium chloride	7
K	1	NO <sub>3</sub>	16	Sodium chloride	9
				Sodium nitrate	21
				Silica	32
					<hr/>
Total					280
					<hr/>

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance.



The water is neutral in reaction, hard in character but not unduly so, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is free from iron and other metals.

Organic quality is very satisfactory.

From the aspect of the chemical and mineral analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

#### Watercress Beds

Routine inspections were made and water samples taken from the Watercress Beds at Mere, Zeals, Donhead St. Andrew and Donhead St. Mary.

Number of water samples taken from Beds and Sources	..	..	7
Number found not to be entirely satisfactory	..	..	3

#### Watercress Samples

After washing in Chlorinated Water:	Satisfactory: 5	Unsatisfactory: 2	Total: 7
-------------------------------------	-----------------	-------------------	----------

All watercress is washed in chlorinated water after cutting and Hydro Cooling is carried out at two beds.

#### SWIMMING POOLS

There are now seven swimming pools in the district.

Pyt House Club	- Open to Members.
Tisbury Secondary Modern School	- Constructed by Public subscription and also open to the public.
Mere Secondary Modern School	- School children only.
St. Mary's Convent	- Private School.
Cranborne Chase School	- Private School.
East Knoyle School	- School children only.
Ludwell Primary School	- School children only.

Regular checking of Chlorine content is carried out and 6 bacteriological samples taken proved satisfactory.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Five parishes have a main sewerage system; in the remainder of the District disposal is by Septic Tank, Cesspool or Pail Closet. The conversion to water-borne sanitation continues slowly and during 1967 of 58 plans submitted for improvements to dwellings 39 were in respect of properties with no sewer available.

A Cesspool Emptying Service for domestic properties was commenced on the 1st January, 1965 and the following statistics are of interest:-

Number of owners registering during year	109
" " " previously registered	1,053
" " tanks emptied during year	877
" " properties served by these tanks	1,132
" " loads removed	1,199
" " Council Estates with disposal works to be serviced	33
" " " Estate sewage tanks emptied	70

Approximate gallonage of sewage removed 1,375,000

In addition to the foregoing the cesspit on the mobile toilet trailer was emptied daily between 1st June and 30th September.

The service is operated with a 1,000 gallon Eagle Cesspit Emptyer and two men. Disposal of the sewage is to farmland and to Sewage Disposal Works at Mere and Zeals. Tanks are emptied once per year free and subsequent servicing within that year is charged at 30s. Od. per time.

The Council agreed to the loan of the vehicle and operators to the Warminster and Westbury Rural District Council during the construction of a sewage scheme and it was possible to arrange this aid for 8 days in the year.

#### Tisbury

The works, completed in 1959, continue to operate in a satisfactory manner. Sewage gravitates to the works from the greater part of the village and from the Tuckingmill area is raised by Ejector to the Main Sewer. The sewage is raised within the works to sedimentation tanks and gravitates through percolating filters and humus tanks with the final effluent discharging to the River Nadder.

Trade Effluent is accepted from the Factory manufacturing Dog Food. Regular sampling of this effluent and the final effluent at the works is carried out. An attendant is employed here with assistance from mobile staff.

New connections to Sewers . . . . . 7

#### Mere

The laying of sewers was virtually completed during the year with the extension to Burton and the small extension in Boar Street.

Sewage from the area north of Edgebridge gravitates to the works and that from Holwell, Southbrook, Burton and the Causeway is lifted via a pumping station at Edgebridge into the trunk sewer. A further pumping station is sited at the southern end of the Causeway.

New Industry in Mere replacing the proposed Poultry Processing Plant has no trade effluent problem. Connections here are solely for Canteen and Staff sanitary accommodation.

A sewage works Manager and an attendant are employed at these works.

New connections to Sewers . . . . . 39

#### Hindon

These works, completed in 1964, continue to function in a satisfactory manner. Sewage gravitates to the pumping station and is lifted to high level to gravitate through the works with final disposal of effluent by land irrigation.

An attendant works here two days per week with regular visits from mobile staff.

New connections to Sewers . . . . . 3

#### Zeals

The system is an adaptation of the scheme installed for the use of Zeals Aerodrome and taken over by the Council at the end of the war. The Sewage Disposal Works are situated in the neighbouring Rural District. The works continue to function in a satisfactory manner.

New connections to Sewers . . . . . 7

#### Maiden Bradley

The work is proceeding on the scheme for this parish. On completion part of the existing sewers will have been relaid to accept sewage from The Rank and the extension to the sewered area. A pumping station will lift sewage from the Frome Road back to High Street and a new Sewage Disposal Works is being constructed.

New connections to Sewers . . . . . 2

#### East Knoyle

It is anticipated that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will hold an enquiry during 1968.

#### Chilmark and Teffont

The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a joint scheme for Chilmark and Teffont. Approximately 200 dwellings will benefit.



## FUTURE PROPOSALS

Donhead St. Mary and Donhead St. Andrew are next on the Council's priority list with a joint scheme to serve about 425 dwellings and will be followed by another joint scheme for Kilmington and Stourton with disposal to existing works at Zeals and catering for 200 dwellings.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Household and Trade Refuse Collection

The Council operates a fortnightly collection of refuse throughout the district. The collection is kerbside. Efforts are made to assist the aged or handicapped as much as possible. Two vehicles are operated with one driver and one loader to each vehicle.

Vehicles employed:	20 cu. yard PAKAMATIC	(Diesel)
	18 cu. yard DUAL TIP	(Diesel)

### Provision of Dustbins

Dustbins are provided only for the Council Houses.

The Council have not taken action under Section 75 of the Public Health Act to provide dustbins, either as a rate borne service or at a charge.

### Disposal

The disposal of refuse is to dumps at Ansty, Maiden Bradley, East Knoyle and Donhead St. Andrew.

Miles run during the year	25,150
---------------------------	--------

### LITTER ACT, 1958

Litter bins are installed at various points throughout the District and the Wiltshire County Council Highways Department co-operate with the provision of litter bins on laybys. The litter bins are cleared before each weekend by the Refuse Collectors and the County Council have agreed to contribute, at the rate of 3s. 0d. per bin clearance on trunk roads and 1s. 6d. on other laybys.

### CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

This Act came into operation on the 27th August and Part III dealing with the Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles and Refuse is administered by the Public Health Department. The Public Health Inspectors are authorised officers under this Act.

For the purposes of Section 18 the tips at Ansty and East Knoyle are places where residents may deposit refuse at all reasonable times.

For the purposes of Section 20 arrangements have been made for the safe storage of vehicles removed and awaiting collection or sale.

Action was taken to secure the removal of three vehicles during the year.

#### SALVAGE

Householders are requested to put out Newspaper, Cardboard and Magazines separately parcelled for ease of handling and from time to time during the year small advertisements are inserted in the local paper.

Without losing sight of the primary object, i.e. the collection and disposal of refuse, the following table shows a steady income from this source.

The four men each receive 10% of the income as bonus.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Unbaled Pams	6	4	0	18	12	11
Newsprint	27	14	3	201	2	0
Rags, Gunny, String		10	2	5	6	3
Scrap Metal		3	2	6	9	0
	34	12	3	231	10	2

The disposal of Waste Paper has presented difficulties during the year. Overstocking at the Mills held back collections during the early part of the year and resulted in reduced prices for newsprint and mixed waste and the eventual suspension of collections in July.

There was a slight easing at the end of the year and it is anticipated that 1968 will bring an increase in price for newsprint.

The Salvage Yard at Longcross, Zeals consist of garage accommodation, baling and storage buildings and sanitary accommodation for the employees.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public Conveniences are provided in the Car Park at Mere and at High Street, Tisbury.

At Mere, the Council has provided the best possible facilities for the travelling public; the conveniences are tiled throughout and washing facilities with soap, hot water and hand dryers provided for both sexes. Despite the very heavy use occasioned by the increased traffic along the A.303 there has been little vandalism.

A mobile toilet trailer was sited on the layby at Willoughby Hedge on the A.303 from the Spring Bank Holiday to the 1st October. The vehicle was provided by the Wiltshire County Council and maintained by Mere and Tisbury Rural District Council with the cost of maintenance shared.

It is with great pleasure that I record that the vehicle required only minor adjustments on withdrawal from service and with the exception of the loss of a soap dispenser and towing light socket no vandalism was experienced.

The provision of a more permanent type of accommodation on a site at Zeals and Willoughby Hedge is still under consideration.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960

Number of inspections made: 110

		<u>Regulation 16</u>	<u>Regulation 19</u>
Public Houses, Hotels	35	35	35
Grocery Stores	56	54	49
Fishmongers	3	3	3
Butchers Shops	6	6	6
Cafes	13	13	13
Hospitals and Institutions	2	2	2
Parish Halls, Clubs, Sweet Shops, etc.	24	16	11
Schools	20	20	20

Number of Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

- |   |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1. Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages | .. | .. | .. | 7  |
| 2. Sale or Preparation of Cooked Meats    | .. | .. | .. | 15 |

There were no prosecutions during the year.

### MOBILE CANTEENS

During the summer weekends mobile canteens appear on laybys and verges. Routine inspections are carried out but the short stay on site make adequate control difficult.

### CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

The promotion of Clean Handling of Food is by the slow process of individual education.



<u>Headings</u>	<u>Activities</u>
1. Lectures or Classes for Food	None. Advice to individuals and leaflets.
2. Exhibitions	Display - as part of a Public Relations Exhibition at a large Agricultural Show.
3. Lectures etc. for General Public including Women's organisations	Two lectures during year.
4. Formation of Clean Food Guild	None.
5. Formation of Local Codes of Practice.	None.
6. Any other relevant activities	The exhibition of posters by the Public Health Department.

### MILK

The Wiltshire County Council delegated licensing and sampling powers under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960.

Under the Delegation Agreement the Rural District Council receive 15s. Od. per sample taken.

### LICENCES

Dealers (Pre-packed Milk) Licence - Pasteurised	17
Dealers (Pre-packed Milk) Licence - Sterilised	3

Other dealers delivering milk in the District are licensed by the Authority in whose district their premises are situated.

A requirement of the delegation was the regular sampling of milk. The recommended range and frequency of milk sampling required, being:-

Table 1.

Grade of Milk	Sampling Sources	Examination required	Sampling frequency	Annual number of Samples
Untreated Milk	Producer Retailers and Distributors	Methylene	Monthly	12
		Blue		
		Biological	Quarterly	4
Pasteurised Milk	Distributors obtaining milk from Wilts Pasteurising Plants	Phosphatase		
		and Methylene		
		Blue	Quarterly	12

Contd.

Grade of Milk	Sampling Sources	Examination required	Sampling frequency	Annual number of Samples
	Distributors obtaining milk from outside Pasteurising Plants	Phosphatase and Methylene Blue	Monthly	168
Sterilised Milk	Distributors	Turbidity Test	Monthly	12

TOTAL SAMPLES: 208

Samples taken during 1967:-

178 routine inspections of milk shops, dairies and delivery vans were made.

Table 2.

No. of raw milk samples for statutory test		No. of raw milk samples for biological test		No. of heat treated samples for statutory test		No. of bottle rinses (Sets) for bacteriological test	
Pass	Fail	<u>T.B.</u> Pos. Neg.	<u>B.A.</u> Pos. Neg.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
3	1	- 3	- 13	161	-	-	-

Four complaints were received in respect of milk delivered in the areas as follows:-

Glass in milk bottle	..	..	..	2
Stained milk bottle..	..	..	..	1
Bottle cap in milk bottle	..	..	..	1

No prosecutions were instituted.

#### Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

Number of samples of raw milk examined .. .. 10

Following positive milk ring tests from samples of raw milk taken during delivery, ten cows of a herd at Chicklade were individually sampled. Biological tests proved negative.

## Cream

Premises at which cream is heat treated	..	..	..	Nil
Premises at which heat treated or raw creams are used in the manufacture of other products	..	..	..	Nil

## ICE CREAM

Ice Cream is not manufactured in the District and that sold within the District is pre-packed.

No cases of illness from the consumption of this food was reported.

Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	..	..	58
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## FOOD CONDEMNED

The undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

- 1 15 oz. Tin of Sliced Beetroot.
- 6 15½ oz. Tins of Rice Pudding.
- 1 1 lb. 12 oz. Tin of Processed Peas.
- 3 Small tins of Full Cream Evaporated Milk.
- 2 Tall tins of " " " "
- 3 6 oz. Tins of Dairy Cream.
- 3 15½ oz. Tins of Stewed Steak.
- 2 2 lb. 3 oz. Tins of Peeled Tomatoes.
- 1 14 oz. Tin of Peeled Tomatoes.
- 1 14 lb. 14 oz. Turkey.
- 1 8 oz. Pkt. of Semolina.
- 2 11 lb. Tins of Pork Shoulder.
- 1 Pkt. Potato Crisps.
- 21 Bars of Dairy Milk Chocolate.
- 38 Bars of Fruit and Nut Chocolate.
- 8 Coconut Bars

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Wiltshire County Council.

## Carcases Inspected in 1967

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number and Parts condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



## Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

Number of Pasteurising Plants in the district	..	..	..	Nil
Number of samples of liquid egg taken	..	..	..	Nil

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The two private Slaughterhouses within the District did not comply with the Construction Regulations and with the Appointed Day for these Regulations to apply being confirmed as the 1st January, 1961, for the Mere and Tisbury Rural District Council, both ceased to operate.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

Number of renewals of Licences issued to Slaughtermen:	4
Number of new Licences issued to Slaughtermen:	Nil

### Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

### DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The Wiltshire County Council have delegated their functions under this Order to District Councils and the Public Health Inspector is authorised to act as Inspector of the Local Authority under the 1960 Act for the purpose of executing and enforcing the provision of the Order.

No. of premises Licensed	Premises where swill is boiled for resale	Types of Boiling Plant		Breaches of Order detected
		Elect/ Gas	Coal/ Wood	
2	Nil	1	1	Nil

### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was necessary during 1967 to abate air pollution.

### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1961

There are no premises requiring Licensing or Registering under the above Act.

### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

The Public Health Inspectors are authorised officers for the purpose of this Act.

Number of Establishments Licensed	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
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# PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The Public Health Inspectors are authorised officers for the purpose of this Act.

Number of Establishments Licensed . . . . . 1

## OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Prescribed particulars to be included in the Annual Report to the Minister of Labour by Local Authorities and the London County Council under Section 60.

Table A. - Registration and General Inspections.

Period covered: To December 31st, 1967.

Class of premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	1	18	5
Retail Shops	Nil	45	6
Wholesale shops, warehouses	Nil	Nil	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	Nil	12	4
Fuel Storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	1	75	15

TOTAL Number of visits to registered Premises under the Act - 26.

H. SHARRATT

Chief Public Health Inspector







